Office of Strategic Services Mission to Germany United States Forces European Theater

APO 655 25 September 1945

Subject: Application for Buropean Studies Course.

To s War Department, Washington, 25, D.C.

MACH, MICHELL.

- 1. Reference is made to Section II, War Department Circular No. 172, dated 9 June 1945.
- 2. It is requested that the undersigned be detailed as a student officer in the next European Studies Course.
 - 3. If qualifications for this course are as follows:
 - a. Regular Army officer, thirty years of age, with two years overseas service in England, France and Germany.
 - b. Have working knowledge of the French and German Languages.
 - c. Am studying Russian through the Armed Forces Extension Courses conducted by the University of Chicago.
 - d. During my two years overseas service I have been assigned to the Office of Strategic Services. In the performance of my duties with this organization I have:
 - (1) Acquired an intimate personal knowledge of the geography of Europe as a result of extensive travelling in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Switzerland.
 - (2) Become extremely well acquainted with the contemporary political, economic and social institutions of modern Europe as I have been handling the procurement and processing of secret intelligence dealing primarily with these matters for the past two years.
 - e. My personal hobby is the study of modern European history and its relation to international affairs with particular reference to the foreign policies and economic development of the USSR.
 - f. My efficiency ratings for the past four years: Superior.
 - g. Am physically qualified for foreign duty.
 - h. Farticularly desire to continue my overseas service in some military capacity which would give me the opportunity to work on Mussian matters.
 - i. Current military duty: Commanding Officer, OSC Mission to Germany.

EDWIN F. BLACK Lt. Col., CAC 0-23012 Commanding

11/

SPECIAL OPERATIONS (BRUNCH) OSS DETACHMENT European T of Opns, USA

25947

201 - BLACK, EDWIN F.

5 December 1944

Subject: Promotion of EDWIN F. BLACK

To : Commanding Officer, OSS Detachment, European T of Opns USA.

1. Under the provisions of AR 605-12, it is recommended that the following officer be promoted as indicated:

a EDWIN	F.	BLACK	0-23012	
(First Name	e) (Middle Initial)	(Last Name)	(ASN)	
b. <u>29</u> (kge)	Grad (Tota	rated US Milita	ry Academy .	- Jume, 1940 vice)
c. Regular Arm (Date of en	try on EAD) (Grade) (F	ermanent grade	11 June) (Date of C	19/3 Order)
	AUS) (Date of Order)			
		(Grace neld A		
c. CAC (Arm or Ser		Chief, SO,	(Componen	(R.A.)
Grade to w		PARIS Duty Assignment) (T/O No)

a.	Aset S-3	H.D. of C	3.B. 1 Oct 1943
	(Fosition Occupied)	(Unit)	(Feriod) (Far per of Fert)
	(Position Occupied)	Assgd 3d Bn	28 Oct 1943 25 New 1943 (Manner of rer!)
	Asst Planning Officer	OSS Det.	26 Nov 1943
d.	(Position Occupied) Chief, S.O.	OSS Det,	28 Oct 1944 Superior (Feriod) (Manner of Ferf) 28 Oct 1944
	(Icsition Occupied)	(Unit)	(Period) (Manner of Peri)

- 3. The relative rank of this officer has been considered, and to the best of my knowledge and belief he is the best fitted officer available in this organization for the grade and position for which premotion is recommended.
- 4. A position vacancy exists in accordance with approved table of allotment for this organization, and the filling of such vacancy by the promotion of this officer, together with all previous recommendations not acted upor, will not operate to exceed the number of position vacancies.

(Signature)

WILL TANGE - NEAR LISTT

(Chief of Eranch)

Deputy

Incl(s):

Incl #1 - Personal History Statement.

201 -To: 1st Ind ,

- 1. Approved.
- 2. The relative mark of this officer has been considered, and to the best of my knowledge and belief he is the best fitted officer available in this organization for the grade and position for which promotion is recommended.
- 3. A position vacancy exists in accordance with approved table of allotment for this organization and the filling of such vacancy by the promotion of this officer, together with all previous recommendations not setsd upon, will not operate to exceed the number of position vacancies that are authorized to be filled by promotion.
- 4. The 201 file of this officer does not contain any record of reclassification or court-martial proceedings having been instituted in his case.

(Signature)

DAV LEYKE CE Manager

(Grade) Commanding

26 December 1944

mo.	m) - a)	0.01
To:	The Chairman, OSS 0	ITICOPS BOARD
FRON:	Operations Officer,	ESO
THROUGH:	(a) Chief, SO (b) European Theate (c) The Chairman, S (d) The Deputy Dire	er Officer SSO Board of Review ector, SSO
SUBJECT:	Request for Promoti 0-23012, CAC	on of Major Edwin F. Black,
ENCLOSURES:	(A) Outline of Subj (B) Outline of Subj Promotion	ject's Military Record ject's Duties which Justify
promotion 2	com Major to Lieutens 20 October 1945.	requested that subject be ant Colonel. Date of last
the Theater	by Enclosure (B).	has been recommended from
grade, but this reques	they have received	ers having greater time in consideration before making
		Operations Officer, ESO
The above	requestis approved by	y the following:
(a) Chief,		(c) SSO Board of Review
		ъу
Date:		Date:
(b) Europe	an Theater Officer	(d) Deputy Director, SSO
by		

25449

EECLOSURE "B"

OUTLINE OF SUBJECT'S DUTIES SEICH JUSTIFY PROMOTION

On 7 August 1944, when the Etat Major des Forces Francaises de l'Interieur (a tripartate organisation composed of American, Eritish and French) was set up, Major Black continued as Deputy Chief of the American Planning and Liaison Section, and in this capacity on 6 September 1944 was sent on temporary duty with SHAMF (Forward).

Subject officer was relieved of the above command as of 28 October 1944 and served as Chief, 50 Branch, Paris.

Upon the departure of Colonels Bruce and Giblin, subject officer has been serving as Executive Officer, OSS, Paris. His future assignment will either be that of Executive Officer, or removal to London to serve as Deputy to the Chief of SO in his especity as Co-Director, Special Force Headquarters.

This office is informed by the Chief, 20, London, that all of the several positions held by Major Black have merited the grade of Lieutenant Colonel and that he has discharged his duties in a superior manner.

SO BRANCH Office of Strategic Services European Theater of Operations (Main)

I i was in the little

9 December 1944

ARMY AIR POUCH ZL 715

MEMORANDUM:

Mr. G. E. Miller, OSS, Washington, D. C.

" bound for the respect to the little of the set.

dation for Permitting 10 mayer Sings F. Land

- 1. The promotions of Major Black and Captain Brogger were approved by the Board here on the 7th of December and the necessary papers will be sent to Washington. Would you please make arrangements to have Washington process immediately and confirm results without delay?
- 2. Attached are copies of GO 116 awarding the DSC to Captain Cyr.

Best regards,

And I was former to be an about the first the GORDON R. TOBIN Captain, AUS Adminis Officer

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SO BRANCH
Office of Strategic Services
European Theater of Operations
United States Army
(Main)

APO 413 6 December 1944

SUBJECT: Job Description and Justification to Accompany Recommendation for Promotion of Major Edwin F. Black

TO : CO, Hq & Hq Detachment, OSS, European T of Opns

1. On 22 November 1943, Major Black was assigned as Deputy to the Chief of the SO Planning Section at Special Force Headquarters. In this capacity, he assisted in the preparation of all forward operational plans for the development, control and employment of Resistance Groups within the SHAEF sphere. In addition, Major Black also assisted in maintaining liaison with Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, Twelfth Army Group and the First and Third U. S. Armies. At this time, Major Black was actively engaged in coordinating SOE/SO facilities with the military plans and projects of the above-mentioned headquarters. He was also concerned with the preparation of annexes to be included in the Joint Operations Plans of U. S. Forces for operation "OVERLORD". These annexes outlined the types and intensities of activities which would be directed by Resistance Groups after D-Day, their control, including SOE/SO directly controlled groups and allied French groups, and the function and composition of the SO Detachments. He aided the A.C. of S, G-3, SHAEF, in the preparation of letters pointing out to Army Group and Armies concerned that there would be attached to them SO Detachments which would serve as a source of specific and general information for overall plans for use of Resistance Groups. During this period, Major Black was repeatedly recommended for promotion by his Chief because of the superior performance of his duties but, due to lack of promotional vacancies, it was impossible to effect his promotion at that time.

2. On 7 August 1944, when the Etat Major des Forces Francaises de l'Interieur (a tripartite organization composed of American, British and French) was set up, Major Black continued as Deputy Chief of the American Planning and Liaison Section, and in this capacity on 6 September 1944 was sent on temporary duty with SHAEF (Forward) and was charged with the following responsibilities:

(a) Maintain liaison between EMFFI and the appropriate Sections of SHAEF (Forward) on all matters pertaining to the FFI, working closely with the Ops "C" Sub-Section, G-3 Division, SHAEF, on operational subjects.

- (b) Maintain such liaison as is required between SHAEF, EMFFI in London and General Koenig's headquarters in Paris.
- (c) Maintain up-to-date documentation concerning all FFI activities and prepare such staff studies relative to the FFI as might be required.
- (d) Assist such members of the FFI as might be required to visit SHAEF in contacting the appropriate Section with that headquarters and in carrying out their missions.
- (e) Perform such additional duties as might be required by SHAEF or EMFFI.
- 3. Since 28 October 1944 Major Black has served as Chief, SO Branch, Paris, and has discharged his duties in a superior manner.
- 4. From the foregoing, it is apparent that, though Major Black has successively occupied several positions meriting the grade of Lt Colonel and has discharged his duties in a superior manner, he has not, in recent times, held a position for the requisite three months. This circumstance has been entirely incident to the convenience of this Branch. It is believed that an unfavorable consideration of this recommendation on the basis of insufficient time in his current assignment would unduly penalize the officer.

WILLIAM G. BARTLETT,

Colonel, Cav, Deputy Chief (BRSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT OF COMPLISSIONEL OFFICER

Civ

5 December 1944

) 200 (II	ite)
First Name)	(Middle Initial	BLACK (Dast Name)	MAJOR (Grade)	CAC (A or S)
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te: 2d Lt - Jun	1940	Grade:	Lt - 16 mos; 1s	
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Maj, AUS (AC)	It Col, AUS	It Col, AUS (AC)	Col. AUS (Col, AUS (AC)
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EXPERIENCE: (Use reverse side o	of paper if more spa	ce is needed)	^
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(Attach copies been mentioned	UNUSULL CONFICTI of any communicat favorable or unfa	ONS COMCERNING RECOM ions in officer's 20 vorable)	MishDA: 10W Ol — file where	ein he has
			Signatur	e of Pers O

ENGLOSURE "B"

CUNFIDENTIAL PROMOTION

OUTLINE OF SUBJECT'S DUTIES WHICH JUSTIFY PROMOTION

On 22 November 1943, Major Black was assigned as Deputy to the Chief of the SO Planning Section at Special Force Headquarters. In this capacity, he assisted in the preparation of all forward operational plans for the development, control and employment of Resistance Groups within the SHARF sphere. In addition, Major Black also assisted in maintaining liaison with Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, Twelfth Army Group and the First and Third U.S. Armies. At this time, Major Black was actively engaged in coordinating SOE/SO facilities with the military plans and projects of the above-mentioned headquarters. He was also concerned with the preparation of annexes to be included in the Joint Operations Plans of U.S. Forces for operation "OV RLOW". These annexes outlined the types and intensities of activities which would be directed by Resistance Groups after D-Day, their control, including SOE/SO directly controlled groups and allied French groups, and the function and composition of the SO Detachments. He aided the A.C. of S, G-3, SHAMF, in the preparation of letters pointing out to Army Group and Armies concerned that there would be attached to them SO Detachments which would serve as a source of specific and general information for overall plans for use of Resistance Groups. During this period, Major Black was repeatedly recommended for promotion by his Chief because of the superior performance of his duties but, due to lack of promotional vacancies, it was impossible to effect his promotion at that time.

On 7 August 1944, when the Etat Major des Dorces Francaises de l'Interieur (a tripartite organization composed of American, British and French) was set up, Major Black continued as Deputy Chief of the American Palanning and Liaison Section, and in this capacity of 6 September 1944 was sent on temporary duty with SHAEF (Forward) and was charged with the following responsibilities:

- a. Maintain liaison between EMFFI and the appropriate Sections of SHAMF (Forward) on all matters pertaining to the FFI, working closely with the Ops "C" Sub-Section, G-3 Division, SHAMF, on operational subjects.
- b. Maintain such liaison as is required between SHAEF, EMFFI in London and General Koenig's headquarters in Paris.
- c. Maintain up-to-date documentation concerning all FFI activities and prepare such staff studies relative to the FFI as might be required.
- d. Assist such member os the FFI as might be required to visit SHAUF in contacting the appropriate Section with that headquarters and in carrying out their missions.
- e. Perform such additional duties as might be required by SHAEF or EMFFI.

Since 28 October 1944 Major Black has served as Chief, SO Branch, Paris, and has discharged his duties in a superior manner.

The above recommendation was from Colonel William G. Bartlett, Deputy Chief, SO, ETO.

From the foregoing, it is apparent that, though Major Black has successively occupied several positions meriting the grade of Lt. Colonel and has discharged his duties in a superior manner, he has not, in recent times, held a position for the requisite three months. This circumstance has been entirely incident to the convenience of this Branch. It is believed that an unfavorable consideration of this recommendation on the basis of insufficient time in his carrent assignment would unduly penalize the officer.

Including time and one half for overseas service, this officer has held his present grade in AJS for 192 months. He has clearly demonstrated his fitness for the responsibilities and duties of the position and grade for which recommended for a period of 12 months, by actual occupation of a position and performance of duties appropriate to that grade and corresponding to the duties of the position he is to occupy.

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ORM PPB-2 OSS REQUISITION BY NAM	
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THRU: THE PERSONNEL OFFICER, SSO	
3. THRU. THE	BY
4. NAME OF	37
REQUISITIONING BRANCH	5. NO. (If any)
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Gyril Edwin Black Civ	illan
11. PRESENT ASSIGNATION . LOCATION	10. DATE OF BIRTH 9/10/15
11. PRESENT ASSIGNMENT & LOCATION	5/ 25/ 25
4 South Edwards Hall, Princeton, New	Jersey
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19. ADDITIONAL ESSENTIAL & SPECIAL QUALIFICATION	
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	(For the requisitioning Branch)
	R. H. Enapp
(For Personnel Proc. Branch, OSS)	
(OVER)	
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3 May 1946 (Susp elace)

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the following Items of government preserve which were issued to me by the Strategie berviers Init or e Office of Strategic Bervices are:

I forther certify that immediately open receipt it is the items, a will return than to:

> Property Seard - 101 Central Bl. Stratagic Sorvices Juit Har Department 25 % E Sts., N.W. Washington 25, D.C.

by mail, express, or other sife means of delivery.

Edwin FBlack. Lt Col (NATIO) Roosevell 58

Betherda, Md.

· HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHLENT Office Assit Secretary of War WD Strategic Services Unit 2324 F. Street; N. W. Washington, D. C.

MOTIFICATION TO CLEARANCE OFFICERS: After this date no Funds or Property , should be issued this officer. 2 Apr 46

SUBJECT: CLEARANCE

: Whom It May Concern TO

Under the provisions of C-9 Par 10b (4) (a) AR 210-10 dated 26 August 43, is not indebted to I certify that Lt Col Edwin F. Black, CAC, 023012 the United States or any of its agencies or Instrumentalities nor responsible or accountable for any Government property incident to his tour of active duty except as follows: at this station during the period to 2 Apr 46

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I Certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief I am clear of responsibility for property, equipment, mess bills and personal telephone calls pertaining to the above organization, and that I am free of indebtedness to

civilian concerns in the vicinity.

(Mame)

Edwin F. Black Lt Col, CAC

and (was not) furnished Government quarters during the period of his duty at this headquarters from :

FOR THE COLLANDING OFFICER:

CARL V. CANH. lst Lt., AC,

Adjutant

30161/2

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHTENT Office of Strategic Services 2324 F Street, N. W. Washington, D. C.

2 Apr 46

SUBJECT: Manner-of-Performance Rating.

TO : Chief of Branch

Request that the following form be completed and immediately returned to this headquarters in order to bring up-to-date the "D AGC 66-1 of:

Lt Col Edwin F. Black, CAC, 023012

who has been reassigned from WD OASW to Transfer

BY ORDER OF COLONEL PITZ:

CARL V. CASH

1st Lt, AC

Acst Adjutant

Feriod Reported on:

From: JAN46

To: 2 APR 46

Type of Duty Performed:

Enroute - T/D - Emergency leave during this period
No rating to be given.

MANUER OF PARFOR LANCE

What degree of success has he att ined under the following? Place an "K" in the appropriate space to dend a rating. Enter the proper numerical value in the appropriate column under "total value." No value should be entered for rabing of unknown. NULLEGICH RATING equals the net value divided by the total number of entries for which a numerical rating was given.

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SIPICE - PO

Director's Office, SSU, OASW, WD, 25th & E. Sts., M.W., Washington, D.C., 5 January, 1946

To: Commanding General, Army Ground Forces, War Department, Washington, D.C.

Approved and recommended.

For the Director:

KNOX P. PRUDEN Colonel, AGD Adjutant

Original ltr. dtd 24 December 1945

Subject: Application for the Third European Staff Officers

Study Course

To : Commanding Officer, Strategic Services Unit,

War Department, Washington, D.C.

From : Edwin F. Black, Lt. Col., GSC, Commanding

Mission to Germany, U.S. Forces, European Theater

Authority NNO 47589

STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WAR DEPARTMENT
MISSION TO GERMANY U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

A constitution

APO 24 December 1945

Subject: Application for the Third European Staff Officers

Study Course

TO Commanding Officer, Strategic Services Unit, War Department, Washington, D.C.

1. It is requested that the enclosed application for the Third European Staff Officers Study Course be approved and forwarded to the Adjutant General, War Department, prior to 10 January 1946.

2. My application for the Second European Staff Officers Study Course which you approved unfortunately was forwarded to the War Department too late for consideration. Therefore, I am particularly anxious to have the enclosed application reach the War Department as soon as possible, particularly since this course begins on or about 11 February 1946.

Edwine & Black EDWIN F. BLACK Lt. Colonel, GSC

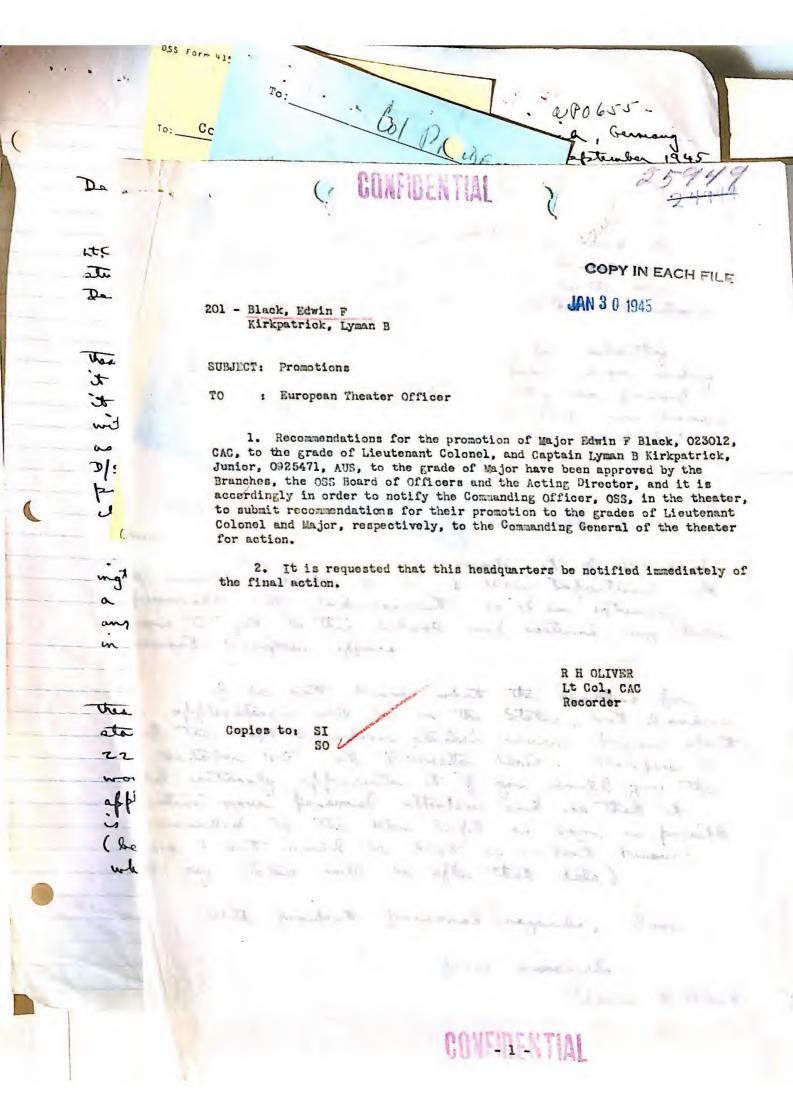
Commanding

cc: Registry

1st Indorsement STRATEGIC SERVICES UNIT, WASHINGTON, D. C., 10 October 1945 03 The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C. 1. Approved and recommended. FOR THE DIRECTOR: KNOM P. PRUDEN Colonel, AGD Adjutant

S. L. LICH. OSS, ETOUSA 25949

SECTION 1 (40) BY CONFLICTED BY INLIVITUAL CONCERNED) V.M.B.	
NAME EDWIN F. BLACK GRADE Maj. SERIAL NO	0-23012
CITTZEN OR NON-CITIZEN Citizen	
NATIONALITY (EY BIRTH OR ANCESTETY) American	
DATE AND FLACE OF BIRTH 17 Aug. 1915, New Orleans, La.	
MARRIED OF SINGLE Single NO OF DEPENDENTS OF	18
HOME ADDRESS 5804 Roosevelt St., Bethesda, Md.	
DATE OF ENTRY INTO SERVICE 11 June 1940 DATE OF PRESENT LANS	20 Oct. 1943
NAME AND ALDRESS OF NEXT OF KIN Mrs. Lillian F. Black, 5804 Bethesda, Md.	Roosevelt St.,
UNDS OR SERIOUS MOSPITALIZATIONS None	
RECEIVING PARACHUTE PAY: XXXX, NO (CROSS OUT ONE)	
SECTION 2 (NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY INDIVIDUAL CONCERNED)	
SECURITY AFPROVAL DATE	
DATE OF TRANSFER TO OSS 23 November 1943	
GENERAL CLASSIFICATION OF DUTY (OFFICE, STAFF, INSTRUCTING, FIELD OPERATIONS, ETC Staff	
DECORATIONS OR CITATIONS	
DATE OF RETURN TO U.S. OR LATE OF TRANSFER TO ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN SO	
PERSONNEL INFORMATION FORM	RND



Brebrich, Germany 25 September 1945

Dear Mr Comble,

Am forwarding herewith (by the hand of https Bending) my application to attend an European atudies course which is being conducted by the War Department. Hatco Subling has no objected to this applications

As it is post the dealling for submitting there applications than the USFET rhamels, I am sending it direct to OSS Woodington so that they can formare it to the war Department. This procedure was discussed with the authorities here at USFET who said that we are ossessed on DIS from the washington they, it would be quite proper to send my application to Washington than oss channels for submission to the USFET there.

I would greatly appreciate it if OSS, Wash.

ington would submit it to the war Department with
a favorable 1st Indorsement, as I am extremely
anxious to get to this school and continue my aturdies
in wrent European office.

I do not know what the deadline for these applications will be in the States, but I underatoud the next European staties course begins about 22 October 45 of Princeton Unit. Therefore I would enterely appreciate it if you would give this application your personal attention and see that it is forwarded to the war Dept as soon as possible is forwarded to the war Dept as soon as possible is forwarded to the war Dept as soon as possible what my status will be after that date)

With bundest personal regards, I am

yours succeedy, Elwin & Black

RESTRICTED

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

Washington, D. C.

INTEROFFICE MEMO

13 September 1945

TO: All Personnel

All of you who served with the Office of Strategic Services were required to share responsibility for the security of its operations and its personnel. Many of you signed an oath that you would not disclose information gained by reason of your employment or assignment to this agency.

You were asked to do so because you were entrusted with highly classified information which pertained to the war against our enemies. OSS maintained an exceptional standard of security. You are to be congratulated on the manner in which you discharged your obligations.

With the defeat of our enemies, the work of this organization is substantially completed. Accordingly, many of the reasons for stringent security obligations have ceased to exist. It is the purpose of this memorandum to modify these obligations.

Specifically, you are hereby officially advised that <u>verbal</u> <u>discussion</u>, in <u>general terms</u>, of the following <u>war time activities of OSS</u> is now authorized:

Permitted Disclosures

It may be said that OSS personnel performed special reconnaissance activities behind enemy lines and assisted in the training and supplying of resistance and partisan groups, thereby enabling them effectively to support the Allied Armies. The establishment of training areas, supply bases and transportation units, both in this country and overseas, were necessary to accomplish these objectives.

In the field of intelligence operations, it may be indicated that OSS personnel engaged in the collection, analysis and dissemination of information affecting all phases of enemy and enemy-occupied countries -- military, economic, political and geographical. It may be said that OSS agents, both American and foreign, in uniform and in civilian clothes, penetrated enemy-held territory in order to obtain this information. It may be explained that T-forces, in the vanguard of the Allied

(77918)

RESTRICTED

Armies, captured documents of great military and economic value to the Allied cause. It may also be said that OSS personnel were assigned to the task of collecting and analyzing information on individuals who were engaged in subversive or intelligence operations on behalf of the enemy.

It is permissable to explain that there were recruited, for both these major functions, civilian and military experts of varied and diverse backgrounds. Close liaison was maintained with other American and Allied agencies and departments engaged in similar activities.

A large staff of administrative, service and clerical personnel was required to emplement these activities. Special branches engaged in experimentation and development of arms and equipment, map preparation, reproduction, communications, psychological warfare studies, photography and medical services, each of which made vital contributions to the over-all program.

Accordingly, (but subject to the limitations outlined below) your own work with the Office of Strategic Services may now be disclosed, orally, to your family and your friends. However, in spite of the fact that we have won total victory over our enemies, there remain certain facts which are not and should not become known to foreign governments. There are others which would cause embarrassment and danger to our own government, our allies, and to certain of our brave and courageous associates who hastened the hour of victory. In this connection it is particularly important that the identity of operational personnel should not be disclosed unless they have been publicly mentioned as being connected with this organization. Accordingly, there shall be no mention whatsoever of any of the following:

Forbidden Disclosures

- 1. Any activity of OSS other than that set forth under the permitted disclosures described above.
- 2. Any information of any kind from OSS or other sources (except the generalized OSS information described above) which remains classified in the files of OSS, or, if from another originating agency, in the files of that agency.
- 3. Any details of operations including for example, any special techniques, devices, methods or identity of personnel employed in clandestine or cover operations.
- 4. Any reference of any kind or character, as to the name, organization, function or personnel of any of the counterparts of OSS in allied governments.

(77918)

RESTRICTED

Although the same general policy may be followed in connection with stories released to the press, radio, and in connection with books and speeches, all material for public distribution must be submitted to the Director, or Reports Declassification Office, (or, if overseas, to the Strategic Services Officer) for clearance.

At all times I ask you to bear in mind that the Office of Strategic Services was created as a war agency, It had, and it has now, no other mandate. It was created solely to hasten the defeat of our enemies. That job is done.

William J. Donovan Director

RESTRICTED

(77918)

Authority UND 47589

United States

SECRET

Recommendation for award of Bronze Star Medal. 200.6 - Bronze Star Medal.

President, Chief 27 Nov OSS SO Branch 1944 Awards & Decorations Board

- 1. Attached hereto is letter, prepared for the signature of the Commanding Officer and addressed to the CG, European Theater of Operations, recommending the award of the Bronze Star Medal to Major Edwin F. Black, 0-23012, CAC. An original and nine copies of the letter are attached.
- 2. If approved by your Board, it is requested that this letter be forwarded to Colonel Bruce for signature and dispatch to Theater Headquarters.
- 3. It is requested that whatever classification is deemed necessary be placed on these papers.

GERALD E. MILLER Chief, 50.

SO File
War Diary
Maj Rafferty.

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HQ & HQ DETACHMENT Office of Strategic Services European Theater of Operations UNITED STATES ARMY

200.6

APO 887 25 November 1944

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Bronze Star Medal

TO : Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, US Army

- 1. a. It is recommended that EDWIN F. BLACK, 0-23012, Major, CAC, United States Army, Office of Strategic Services, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, United States Army, be awarded the BRONZE STAR MEDAL.
- b. Major Black was serving as Deputy Chief, Planning Section, Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services and as Liaison Officer at Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, at the time of the act or service for which this award is recommended.
- c. Name and address of nearest relative: Mother: Mrs. L. F. Black, 5804 Roosevelt Street, Bethesda, Maryland.
 - d. Entered military service from: Maryland.
 - e. Decorations previously awarded: None.
- f. The entire service of Major Black has been honorable since the rendition by him of the act or service upon which this recommendation is based.
- g. A similar recommendation for this individual has not been submitted.
- 2. a. The officer recommending this award has personal knowledge of the act or service upon which this recommendation was based.
- b. Major Edwin F. Black, 0-23012, CAC, United States Army, while serving as a member of the Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services Detachment, European Theater of Operations, distinguished himself by meritorious services in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States.

c. Detailed narrative of services for which this award is recommended:

In order to carry out the directives of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Special Operations Branch of the Office of Strategic Services was faced with planning, organizing, and effecting a type of warfare entirely new on the part of the Armed Forces of the United States and for which no American precedents were available.

The work charged to this organization consisted principally of organizing of the headquarters and headquarters staff; acquiring, organizing, equipping, staffing and operating a Packing Station for the receipt, storage, packing and dispatch of supplies and equipment to be parachuted into enemy occupied territory for use by resistance groups, including also a parachute packing, repair and modification shop; procurement and training of staffs to accompany the Armies into the field to assure the most effective coordination of the activities of resistance groups; procurement, training and infiltration of agents into enemy and enemy occupied territory for the purpose of organizing, equipping, training and directing the activities of resistance groups, setting up escape lines for the crews of allied aircraft shot down by the enemy or forced down in enemy occupied territory, directing acts of sabotage, and directing guerilla warfare activities against the enemy; the procurement, training and dispatch after D-Day into enemy territory of specially selected and highly trained three man teams (Jedburghs) and Operational Groups to assume active leadership of resistance groups.

On 26 December 1943, Major Black was assigned as Deputy Chief, Planning Section, Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services, and as Liaison Officer at Supreme Head-quarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, for matters pertaining to the organization, equipping and operations of Resistance Forces in France. In this position he displayed outstanding judgment, initiative, and executive ability in assisting in the formulation of plans for American assistance in the conduct of sabotage and guerilla warfare activities by French Resistance Forces and in coordinating such plans with the military plans of Supreme Head-quarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces. To his constant zeal, complete application to duty and keen insight into the practical aspects and possibilities of the use of resistance forces, a great deal of the credit is due for the success achieved by the Special Operations Branch.

d. Proposed Citation:

"Major EDWIN F. BLACK, 0-23012, Coast Artillery Corps, Army of the United States, for meritorious services in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States during the period 26 December 1943 to 23 September 1944. During this period, Major Black, as Deputy Chief, Planning Section, Special Operations Branch, Office of Strategic Services, rendered valuable services in connection with the planning of the operations of Resistance Forces in France and in coordinating those plans with the military plans of Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces. His keen insight into the practical aspects and possibilities of the use of resistance forces, his keen judgment, and his complete application to duty, contributed greatly to the success of the work of his organization in the organization, equipping, and operations of French Resistance Forces and the success achieved by them in their operations against the enemy on and subsequent to D-Day. The work performed by Major Black reflects great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Maryland."

> DAVID K. E. BRUCE, Colonel, GSC, Commanding

HQ & HQ DETACHMENT
Office of Strategic Services
European Theater of Operations
UNITED STATES ARMY
(Forward)

United States
SECRET

200.6

APO 887 20 November 1944

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award of Bronze Star Medal.

- TO : Commanding General, European Theater of Operations, United States Army, APO 887, US Army
- 1. a. It is recommended that MICHEL G. BLOCH, 0-887929, 2d Lieutenant, Army of the United States, Office of Strategic Services, European Theater of Operations, APO 887, United States Army, be awarded the BRONZE STAR MEDAL.
- b. Lieutenant Bloch was serving as a Liaison Officer and Instructor with Resistance Groups in a Combat Zone at the time of the act or service for which this award is recommended.
- c. Name and address of nearest relative: Mother: Mrs. Simon van Motter Bloch, 117 Waverly Place, New York, N.Y.
 - d. Entered military service from: New York, U.S.A.
 - e. Decorations previously awarded: None.
- f. The entire service of Lieutenant Bloch has been honorable since the rendition by him of the act or service upon which this recommendation is based.
- g. A similar recommendation for this individual has not been submitted.
- 2. a. The officer recommending this award has personal knowledge of the act or service upon which this recommendation was based.
- b. This recommendation is supported by established records of accomplishments of Resistance Groups during the period of the invasion and liberation of France which are of public knowledge.
- c. 2d Lieutement Michel G. Bloch, 0-887929, Army of the United States, while serving as a number of the SO Branch, Office of Strategic Services Detachment, European Theater of Operations, distinguished himself by meritorious services in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States.

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Dotailed narrative of services for which this award is recommended:

On 1 September 1944 Lieutenant Bloch was parachuted into the Allier Department of France for duty with one of the Maquis battalions in that Department. In the course of his work, he displayed outstanding initiative and resourcefulness particularly in connection with the surrender of nineteen thousand Germans in this sector.

This column of German soldiers passed through Sancoins, fully armed. It was reported that they had already concluded an armistice with the U. S. Third Army, the terms of which permitted them to retain their arms until they had reached the Loire. This armistice was extremely unpopular with the Maquis who wanted the Germans to surrender to them and they did not understand why they were allowed to keep their arms. Most of them wanted to continue the fight.

Lieutenant Bloch, realizing the serious consequences if flighting were to recommence, talked to the men at length and succeeded in making them understand that the most intelligent course was not to indulge in personal vengeance on the German soldiers but to get them out of France altogether and incure an early peace for France. Thus a fresh outbreak of hostilities, which would not only have nullified the existing armistice but would also have caused many unnecessary deaths, was everted by the intelligent action of Lieutenant Bloch.

In all other respects, the mission was carried out intelligently and effectively and Lieutenant Bloch returned to duty with his organization on 19 September 1944. His conduct throughout this mission was at all times such as to reflect great eradit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States.

e. Proposed Citation:

"Second Lieutenant MICHEL G. BLOCH, Army of the United States, for meritorious services in connection with military operations against an energy of the United States during the period 1 September 1944 to 19 September 1944. During this period Lieutenant Bloch served with a Requis battalion in the Allier Department of France. On one occasion, displaying great initiative and resourcefullness, Lieutenant Bloch averted an attack by the Maquis on approximately 19,000 Germans who were passing, fully armed, through Sancions, France, under armistice terms which permitted them to retain their arms until they reached the Loire where they were surrendering to American Forces. Had the attack

United States gants Crid a

by the Maquis taken place not only would the armistice have been nullified but a great many unnecessary deaths would have been caused. The action of Lieutenant Bloch throughout his period of assignment with the Maquis reflected great credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from the United States."

DAVID K. E. BRUCE, Goldnel, GSC, Commanding

DECLASSIFIED
Authority WND 47589

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SUBJECT WUST NOT SEE THIS CONFIDENTIAL THEATER SERVICE RECORD

GRADE Lt. Colonel	7. LENGTH OF SERVICE IN THEATER 2 years - 3 months
SERIAL NO. 0-23012 DATE OF BIRTH 17 August 1915 PHYSICAL CONDITION Superior	8. PROCURED X U.S. THEATER 9. COMMENT OF THEATER AF SECURITY OFFICER SECURITY OFFICER
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including the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth.

15. RECORD OF SERVICE WITH OSS

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BRANCH

GRADE OR RANK .

See 201 file or 66-1.

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CONFIDENTIAL SUBJECT MUST NOT SEE THIS

16. RATING	SUPERIOR	SATISFACTO	RY UNSATIS
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ACTION Atchd to FFI per SO #140, ETOUSA, dtd 11 Sept 44, eff 14 Aug 44. JANAKA Asgd Plannining Staff Hospitalization: None Parachute Pay: No Staff Duty: General Orders #32 20 Dec 44 OSS ETCUSA . Verbal Orders CO eff 19 Dec 44 ampoint Major Black, Deputy Describes Officer Occ Meter BLACK HAS BEENserving as Exec. O. OSS Paris, which position he has filled in superior fash on, suggest you consult Col Bruce in this respect. He will either continue in this capacity or will return to London to serve as Deputy to Miller in his capacity as compirector of special force Hq. He has performed the duties of a Lt. Col for over four months and will continue to perform such duties in either of the above capacities. We strongly reaffirm the statement made in paragraph 4, letter 6 Dec. recommending his promotion. In 1478, fr. Forgan and Miller dtd 16 Jan. 145.
Recommendation for promotion has been approved by Branch, the OSS Bd of Officers and the Acting Director, it is suggested this promtion be put through the Comdg Gen of the theatre for action. Letter signed by R. H. Oliver Lt Col, CAC, Recorder. Dy to emerg ly indefinite period Paris France; eff 1 Mar 46; 7 Mar 46. 0550 -1 Emerg lv Paris France to dy; 25 Mar 46 (24 days) Maryland. "eld fr asgmt asgd AfA Repl Pool Ft Blixx Tex w/TDY enroute Joint Task BLACK, Force I Navy Dept Wash D C approx 180 days per par 10 SO 75 WD EDCMR NEXT OF MI 1 Apr 46 Departed 2 Apr; 3 Apr 46 ORIGINATING OFFICER 43 POVIEWER HED S. S. O: REQUES SECURITY: REQU API OVERSEAS: TRANSFER: RE

Atchd to FFI per SO #140, ETOUSA, dtd 11 Sept 44, eff 14 Aug 44. JAAAAAA Asgd Plannining Staff Hospitalization: None Parachute Pay: No Staff Duty: General Orders #32 20 Dec 44 OSS ETCUSA . Verbal Orders CO eff-19 Dec 44 appoint Major Black, Deputy Transitive Officer OSS ETCUSA BLACK HAS BEENserving as Exec. O. OSS Paris, which position he has filled in superior fash on, suggest you consult Col Bruce in this respect. He will either continue in this capacity or will return to London to serve as Deputy to Miller in his capacity as co*Director of special force Hq. He has performed the duties of a Lt. Col for over four months and ill continue to perform such duties in either of the above capacities. We strongly reaffirm the statement made in paragraph 4, letter 6 Dec. recommending his promotion. In 1478, fr. Forgan and Miller dtd 16 Jan. '45.

Recommendation for promotion has been approved by Branch, the OSS Bd of Officers and the Acting Director, it is suggested this promtion be put through the Comdg Gen of the theatre for action. Letter signed by R. H. Oliver Lt Col, CAC, Recorder. Promoted to Lt. Col PPl2, SO/60, ETC, dtd 20 March \$45. HOME ADDRESS NAME 5804 Roosevelt Street, Bethesda, Maryland. NEXT OF Mrs. L. F. Black RECOMMENDED BY BLACK, EDWIN F. Mother Same as above ADDRESS ORIGINATING OFFICER ORDERS Requested 19 Oct INT PVIEWER APPROVALS PASSPORT S. S. O: REQUESTED APPROVED PROCESSING COMPLETED SECURITY: REQUESTED HD. Q. CHECKLIST APPROVED T O. CHECKLIST CABLES TO THEATER COMMANDER OVERSEAS: PEQUESTED

12-1-43

12 NOV 43 11/23/44 -

APPROVED

TRANSFER: REQUESTED

IN 10157 #1507 DOFRING TO 109. par #3-Strongly recommend prompt dispatch of subject. Situation so serious that usual 30-day leave would result in missing target date. Therefore, urge it be dispensed with wherever possible.

Subject reld fr asgmt to SO Br and asgd to Dir O per par 5, SO 67, Mas & Mas Det, OSS STO dtd 29 Lar 45.

TIRST NAME INITIAL SEX NAT	American	U.S.	S. S. STATUS	A. G C.	0230	12 CAC
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Bethesda, Maryland.			3			
2 OFFICE Hq. HDCB, Fort Story, Virginia. HL		TETANUS	1			
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